

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NIC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 EURE-00 OMB-01 EB-11

IO-14 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

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O R 141700Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3732

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

DIA FOR A2 AND DI5

REF: ROME 3476

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1. PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE RUMOR IS EXPECTED TO FORMALLY ADVISE

PRESIDENT LEONE TONIGHT OR AT LATEST TOMORROW THAT ACCORD HAS BEEN REACHED FOR NEW THREE-PARTY CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT, SUPPORTED IN PARLIAMENT BY REPUBLICANS, AND TO PRESENT TO HIM LIST OF PROPOSED MINISTERS. SWEARING IN WILL PRESUMABLY FOLLOW WITHIN 24 HOURS. PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE LEADING TO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE MIDDLE OF COMING WEEK.

2. FOUR MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO SLOTS HAVE BEEN EITHER ABOLISHED OR AMALGAMATED WITH OTHERS, REDUCING TOTAL NUMBER OF MINISTERS IN NEW GOVERNMENT FROM 28 TO 24. REPORTEDLY, UNDERSECRETARIES (NOT EXPECTED TO BE NAMED UNTIL NEXT WEEK) WILL DROP FROM 58 TO 40. TWO OF THE FOUR MINISTERIAL REDUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ABSORBED BY THE DC, WHILE THE OTHER TWO REPRESENT SLOTS VACATED BY THE REPUBLICANS, THUS ALLOWING SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO RETAIN THEIR PRESENT NUMERICAL STRENGTH IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

3. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL RETAIN FOREIGN COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT MINISTRIES WHICH WILL BE OCCUPIED BY PRESENT INCUMBENTS (MATTEOTTI AND PRETI, RESPECTIVELY). HOWEVER, THEY WILL GIVE UP DEFENSE TO DC IN RETURN FOR FINANCE, WITH PRESENT DEFENSE MINISTER TANASSI SHIFTING TO LATTER POSITION. MINISTER FOR UN AFFAIRS LUPIS WILL RETAIN A MINISTRY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO POSITION, PROBABLY THAT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. PSDI DELEGATION THUS REMAINS IDENTICAL TO THAT IN OUTGOING GOVERNMENT, MUCH TO DISTRESS OF PARTY MINORITY WHICH HAD ASKED AND EXPECTED TO OBTAIN A MINISTRY SLOT FOR ROMITA.

4. SOCIALIST REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN LARGELY AS IT WAS, WITH GIOLITTI STAYING AT BUDGET, ZAGARI AT JUSTICE, BERTOLDI AT LABOR, AND LAURICELLA AT PUBLIC WORKS. HOWEVER, PSI'S GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HENCEFORTH WILL BE HEADED BY PARTY MINORITY LEADER MANCINI WHO WILL ASSUME POST OF MINISTER FOR SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT, CEDING TO DE MARTINO'S URGING THAT HE JOIN COALITION. IN RETURN FOR SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT SLOT (FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY LEFT-WING DC LEADER DONAT-CATTIN), PSI WILL GIVE UP MERCHANT MARINE POSITION, MOVING PRESENT INCUMBENT PIERACCINI TO JOB OF MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO FOR ENVIRONMENT NOW HOLD BY CORONA.

5. ALL FOURTEEN REMAINING MINISTERIAL POSITIONS FALL TO THE DC. PRINCIPAL REMAINING PROBLEM IS DIVISION OF THESE POSITIONS AMONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESENTATIVES OF DC FACTIONS. DC HAS LOST FOUR MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO SLOTS (TWO THROUGH REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF POSITIONS AND TWO BY ASSIGNMENT TO OTHER PARTIES), AS WELL AS THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. IN RETURN, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE PICKED UP TREASURY, DEFENSE AND MERCHANT MARINE MINISTRIES. AT THIS HOUR DC SOURCES CONSIDER IT LIKELY BUT STILL NOT CONFIRMED THAT ANDREOTTI AND FORLANI WILL AGREE TO ENTER GOVERNMENT. FORZE NUOVE LEADER DONAT-CATTIN IS REPORTEDLY ANGRY AT LOSS OF SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT

POSITION, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL ACCEPT ALTERNATE SLOT. MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT THAT MORO WILL REMAIN AT FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY, TAVIANI AT INTERIOR, AND DE MITA AT INDUSTRY. ASSIGNMENT OF KEY TREASURY AND DEFENSE POSITIONS STILL UNDECIDED, ALTHOUGH MANY PREDICT COLOMBO WILL GET FORMER AND ANDREOTTI LATTER. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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